

Living in Wholeness

by Linda Hart

Dorianne Laux describes what happens as two lovers move toward one another.

They move:

into that shapeless place you are bound
to take him, over bridges of bone, beyond
borders of skin, climbing over him
into the world of the body, its labyrinth
of ladders and stairs - and you love him
like the first time you loved him,
with equal measures of expectancy
and fear and awe, taking him with you
into the soft geometry of the flesh, the earth
before its sidewalks and cities,
its glistening spires,
stealing him back from the world he loves
into this other world he cannot build without you.

It is necessary for us to speak of loving and bodies and of tenderness and the intimate means of creating life when there is only death, and comfort that comes when there is despair. This is a dimension of our lives that has such power for both good and for destruction. Carter Heyward reminds us that our whole bodies are part of the making of justice and right relations in the world, just so, this new curriculum reminds us that sexuality is a part of the whole of our lives -- from the time we are small, through our growing and discovering, and on into maturity and, into our elder years. Just as we will never be finished with our search for truth and meaning in the world, if we're doing it right, we'll ever be in a process of discovery of all the facets of ourselves as human beings, as relational beings, as sexual beings.

More than only being a part of our lives throughout the days we live, I believe that our sexual beings and our connection to the erotic within us can fuel creativity, passion and intensity in our lives.

Audre Lorde speaks to this most beautifully.

During World War II we bought sealed plastic packets of white, uncolored margarine, with a tiny, intense pellet of yellow coloring perched like a topaz just inside the clear skin of the bag. we would leave the margarine out for a while to soften, and then we would pinch the little pellet to break it inside the bag, releasing the rich yellowness into the soft pale mass of margarine. Then taking it carefully between our fingers, we would knead it gently back and forth, over and over until the color had spread throughout the whole pound bag of margarine, thoroughly coloring it.

[She goes on] I find the erotic such a kernel within myself. When released from its intense and constrained pellet, it flows through and colors my life with a kind of energy that heightens and sensitizes and strengthens all my experiences.

Living in wholeness, living fully and deeply means that we can touch and experience and use the fullness of our beings: our intellect and the powers of reason; our feelings, tenderness and love, compassion and care, the power of our hearts; the wisdom of our experience in the world; a sense of justice; and the passion of our sexual selves. To live with integrity, to live wholly means finding the ways to allow all that we have and are as human beings to be incorporated into each day, each moment. Living in wholeness means keeping before ourselves that image of integrity, and working, bit by bit, day by day to make it more true and real.